

MARKED-UP VERSION**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

On page 1, please replace the paragraph from lines 19-23 with the following amended paragraph:

The abrasive grains obtained by grinding electro-fused corundum are, for the most part, made up of hexagonal monocrystals and their mechanical properties which, at best, are those of alumina crystals and cannot be improved.

On page 4, please delete the paragraph from lines 5-13 in its entirety.

On page 8, please amend the paragraph starting at line 31 and continuing onto page 9, line 6 with the following amended paragraph.

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Using the same melting means as in example 1, and under the same furnace tilting conditions as in example 2, liquid corundum is cast into a channel and is atomized at the channel outlet by means of a stream of air. In this way hollow beads are obtained whose outer diameter is less than approximately 5 mm. These beads are formed of crystals of hexagonal structure whose size ranges from 100 to 250 μm as can be measured in Figure 4. Density is 3.85 and Knoop hardness is 1950.

On page 9, please amend the paragraph from lines 26-29 with the following amended paragraph:

Examination of the material obtained shows that it is chiefly made up of elementary crystals having a size of less than 5 μm (as can be measured in Figures 2 and 3), a density of 3.95 and a Knoop hardness of 2050.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 5,8-9:

5. (Amended) Abrasive grain according to [any of claims 1 to 4]Claim 1, characterized in that its Knoop hardness is greater than 2050.

8. (Amended) Method according to [either of claims 6 or 7]Claim 6, characterized in that casting is conducted through a nozzle heated by induction.

9. (Amended) Method according to [any of claims 6 to 8]Claim 6, characterized in that the dispersion of the molten alumina is obtained by ultrasound assisted atomization.